

Wisconsin Tax Information for Retirees

Includes Information on:

- Who Must File
- Provisions Affecting Retirees
- Various Wisconsin Taxes
- 2005 Tax Rates

Use this publication in preparing your 2005 tax return. There are no substantive differences between the 2004 and 2005 versions of this publication.

I. INTRODUCTION

This publication includes Wisconsin tax information of special interest to retirees.

II. WHO MUST FILE A WISCONSIN INCOME TAX RETURN

If you had gross income for 2005 of at least the amount shown in the chart below, you must file a 2005 Wisconsin income tax return.

Filing status	Age as of December 31, 2005	Gross income (or total gross income of husband and wife) during 2005 was:
Single	Under 65	\$9,000 or more
	65 or older	\$9,120 or more
Married – filing joint return	Any age	\$18,000 or more
Married – filing separate return	Any age	\$9,000 or more (applies to each spouse individually)
Head of household	Under 65	\$11,250 or more
	65 or older	\$11,500 or more

Exceptions:

- If you are a part-year resident or nonresident of Wisconsin, you must file a Wisconsin income tax return if your gross income (or combined gross income of you and your spouse) is \$2,000 or more for 2005.
- If you could be claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer on that taxpayer's federal or Wisconsin income tax return, special rules apply. You must file a Wisconsin return if you had gross income of \$800 or more which included more

than \$250 of nonwage income (for example, interest, dividends, etc.).

Gross income includes all income (before deducting expenses) reportable to Wisconsin which is received in the form of money, property, or services. It does not include items which are exempt from Wisconsin tax. For example, gross income does not include the portion of your social security benefits which is not taxable to Wisconsin or nontaxable interest from U.S. government securities.

III. PROVISIONS WHICH MAY AFFECT RETIREES

Social Security Benefits No more than 50% of your social security benefits are includable in your 2005 Wisconsin taxable income. Wisconsin does not follow the federal law which taxes up to 85% of social security benefits for 2005.

Railroad Retirement Benefits Railroad retirement benefits are not taxable for Wisconsin.

Pensions and Annuities Generally, the amount of your pension and annuity income that is taxable for federal purposes is taxable for Wisconsin if you are a full-year resident of Wisconsin. However, retirement benefits received on the account of a person who was a member of the Wisconsin State Teachers Retirement System, certain Milwaukee city and county retirement systems, or a U.S. government retirement system as of December 31, 1963, are exempt from Wisconsin income tax. In addition, all retirement payments received from the U.S. military retirement system and from the U.S. government that relate to service with the Coast Guard, the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service are exempt from Wisconsin income tax.

Note: If you worked in Wisconsin but are now a resident of another state, payments you receive from a *nonqualified* pension or annuity or a *nonqualified* deferred compensation plan are taxable by Wisconsin unless (1) the distribution is paid out in annuity form over your life expectancy or for a period of not less than 10 years, or (2) the distribution is paid in either an annuity form or lump-sum from arrangements

known commonly as “mirror plans.” Payments from a *qualified* plan are not taxable for Wisconsin when received by a nonresident, even though the payments may be attributable to personal services performed in Wisconsin.

Additional Personal Exemption Deduction Persons age 65 or older on December 31, 2005, are allowed an additional personal exemption deduction of \$250. If you are married filing a joint return and both you and your spouse were age 65 or older on December 31, 2005, you are allowed an additional exemption deduction of \$250 for yourself and \$250 for your spouse.

Homestead Credit Retirees who are full-year residents of Wisconsin may qualify for homestead credit if they meet certain conditions. Homestead credit provides direct relief to home owners and renters. One of the qualifications is that your total household income (both taxable and nontaxable income) must be below \$24,500 for 2005.

Working Families Tax Credit This credit reduces or completely eliminates the Wisconsin income tax for persons (including retirees) who are full-year residents of Wisconsin whose income is less than \$10,000 (\$19,000 if married filing a joint return).

Estimated Tax Payments If you have income from which Wisconsin tax is not withheld (for example, interest income or pension or annuity income), you may be required to prepay your tax in installments. Generally, you must pay estimated tax if your tax return will show a balance due of \$200 or more. You may be subject to an interest charge if you do not make required payments of estimated tax.

IV. DESCRIPTIONS OF WISCONSIN TAXES

Nonresidents of Wisconsin who are considering moving to Wisconsin after retirement frequently ask about Wisconsin taxes that may affect them. Following are brief descriptions of the major Wisconsin taxes which affect individuals.

Individual Income Tax The following schedules show the individual income tax rates for full-year Wisconsin residents for 2005.

2005 Tax Rate Schedules					
Schedule For Single Taxpayers and Head of Household					
If Taxable Income Is:			The 2005 Gross Tax Is:		
over –	but not over –				of the amount over –
\$ 0	\$ 8,840		4.60%		\$ 0
8,840	17,680	\$ 406.64	+	6.15%	8,840
17,680	132,580	950.30	+	6.50%	17,680
132,580 or over		8,418.80	+	6.75%	132,580

Schedule For Married Taxpayers Filing Jointly					
If Taxable Income Is:			The 2005 Gross Tax Is:		
over –	but not over –				of the amount over –
\$ 0	\$11,780		4.60%		\$ 0
11,780	23,570	\$ 541.88	+	6.15%	11,780
23,570	176,770	1,266.97	+	6.50%	23,570
176,770 or over		11,224.97	+	6.75%	176,770

Schedule For Married Taxpayers Filing Separately					
If Taxable Income Is:			The 2005 Gross Tax Is:		
over –	but not over –				of the amount over –
\$ 0	\$ 5,890		4.60%		\$ 0
5,890	11,780	\$ 270.94	+	6.15%	5,890
11,780	88,390	633.18	+	6.50%	11,780
88,390 or over		5,612.83	+	6.75%	88,390

Note: Nonresidents and part-year residents of Wisconsin must prorate the levels of income to which the above tax rates apply by the ratio of their Wisconsin income to federal adjusted gross income.

Wisconsin taxable income is federal adjusted gross income with certain adjustments. The Wisconsin standard deduction reduces taxable income. Various credits are available which reduce the tax.

Sales Tax The Wisconsin sales tax rate is 5%. In addition, 58 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have adopted a 0.5% sales tax. An additional 0.1% baseball stadium tax applies in Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Washington, and Waukesha counties, and an additional 0.5% football stadium tax applies in Brown County. Some items are exempt from the sales tax, such as groceries purchased for home preparation of meals, prescription medications, newspapers, and most subscription sales of magazines.

Real Estate Tax The rate of taxation varies with each municipality. You can obtain specific information on the tax rate by contacting the treasurer of the city,

village, or town in which you are interested in locating.

Estate Tax For deaths occurring on or after October 1, 2002, the Wisconsin estate tax is equal to the federal credit for state death taxes as computed under the federal estate tax law in effect on December 31, 2000. Under the federal estate tax law in effect on December 31, 2000, no estate tax is due if the gross estate at date of death is \$675,000 or less. Because there is no federal estate tax on such estates under the law in effect on December 31, 2000, there is also no Wisconsin estate tax on estates of \$675,000 or less.

Gift Tax There is no Wisconsin gift tax.

V. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have additional questions or need copies of tax forms, you may contact any Department of Revenue office or call or write to:

(for additional information)

Wisconsin Department of Revenue
Mail Stop 5-77
P.O. Box 8949
Madison, WI 53708-8949
Telephone (608) 266-2772

(to request forms)

Wisconsin Department of Revenue
Forms Request Office
Mail Stop 5-77
P.O. Box 8949
Madison, WI 53708-8949
Telephone (608) 266-1961

Internet web site - www.dor.state.wi.us

E-mail - income@dor.state.wi.us

CAUTION

The information in this publication reflects the interpretations by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue of laws enacted by the Wisconsin Legislature as of December 1, 2005. Laws enacted after that date, administrative rules, and court decisions may change the interpretations in this publication.